



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

ACS eNewsletter
4th of July 2013
edition



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE of the HISTORIAN

MILESTONES: 1776-1783

By issuing the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the 13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain. The Declaration summarized the colonists' motivations for seeking their independence. By declaring themselves an independent nation, the American colonists were able to conclude an official alliance with the government of France and obtain French assistance in the war against Great Britain.

Throughout the 1760s and early 1770s, the North American colonists found themselves increasingly at odds with British imperial policies regarding [taxation](#) and [frontier policy](#). When repeated protests failed to influence British policies, and instead resulted in the

closing of the port of Boston and the declaration of martial law in Massachusetts, the colonial governments sent delegates to a Continental Congress to coordinate a colonial boycott of British goods. When fighting broke out between American colonists and British forces in Massachusetts, the Continental Congress worked with local groups, originally intended to enforce the boycott, to coordinate resistance against the British. British officials throughout the colonies increasingly found their authority challenged by informal local governments, although loyalist sentiment remained strong in some areas.

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DO YOU KNOW?

How many signatures there are on the Declaration of Independence?

Answer on page 6

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Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and other European sympathizers that the colonies were increasingly leaning towards seeking independence. While perhaps true, Franklin also hoped to convince the French to supply the colonists with aid. Independence would be necessary, however, before French officials would consider the possibility of an alliance.

Throughout the winter of 1775-1776, the members of the Continental Congress increasingly viewed reconciliation with Britain as unlikely, and independence the only course of action available to them. When on December 22, 1775, the British Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies, Congress responded in April of 1776 by opening colonial ports—this was a major step towards severing ties with Britain. The colonists were aided by the January publication of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, which advocated the colonies' independence and was widely distributed throughout the colonies. By February of 1776, colonial leaders were discussing the possibility of forming foreign alliances and began to draft the Model Treaty that would serve as a basis for the 1778 alliance with France. Leaders for the cause of independence wanted to make certain that they had sufficient congressional support before they would bring the issue to the vote. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in Congress to declare independence. Other members of Congress were amenable but thought some colonies not quite ready. However, congress did form a committee to draft a declaration of independence and assigned this duty to Thomas Jefferson.



The Declaration of Independence

The 56 signees of the Declaration of Independence

Delaware: George Read, Thomas McKean, Caesar Rodney

Pennsylvania: George Clymer, Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, James Smith, George Taylor, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Ross, James Wilson

Massachusetts: John Adams, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

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Why I Celebrate the 4th of July

By Duane M. Taylor

Before the cheers and applause, and before the crackling and popping of fireworks illuminating the night sky throughout America in celebration of our nation's birth, my father would light up his barbecue grill for all-American hamburgers, hot dogs, ribs, and chicken while teaching me the family secrets of how to smoke ribs and chicken. My mother would prepare potato salad and decorate our favorite sweets to resemble the old Stars and Stripes, and we would all quench our thirst with ice cold lemonade, sweet tea, or a nice cold bottle of our favorite American beer. These are a few things that you can expect in every backyard on the 4th of July.

However, to me, Independence Day is more than parades, food, and fireworks; it is a day that we take a moment to remember a group of men who were willing to risk it all: their futures, their riches, and their lives, because they believed in the idea of liberty and freedom. It was nothing short of astonishing what that group of untrained men managed to accomplish. Men who were considered traitors and who were wanted for treason stood up against an adversary with the greatest military power on earth. These men were America's first army, comprised of mostly farmers, but most of all, comprised of dreamers. They had nothing behind, them but the bare beginnings of a government, hardly anything of an army, but something powerful in the way of inspiration.

This inspiration was fueled on the 4th of July, 1776 by 56 men who signed a document that called for America's independence. Those 56 men represented a group of people clustered in a chain of 13 colonies along the eastern coastline of the United States. Who could have believed that these men were laying the foundation for a nation? That foundation has spread across the continent, and has influenced countries all over the world. That na-

tion's population has increased a hundred-fold. That foundation continues to provide a stable government to a free nation constantly growing and in which every new citizen is never a subject, but forever free.

In his May 2012 speech at Barnard College, President Obama stated, *"What made this document special was that it provided the space—the possibility—for those who had been left out of our charter to fight their way in. It provided people the language to appeal to principles and ideals that broadened democracy's reach. It allowed for protest, and movements, and the dissemination of new ideas that would repeatedly, decade after decade, change the world—a constant forward movement that continues to this day. Our founders understood that America does not stand still; we are dynamic, not static. We look forward, not back."*

Although as an American, you have the right and the freedom to celebrate this day as you choose. I choose to celebrate the Declaration of Independence and remember its meaning. As a citizen this is what I do on the 4th of July—before the fireworks, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

Obama, P. B. (2012, May). Barnard College. New York, New York <http://barnard.edu/headlines/transcript-speech-president-barack-obama>



Who thought of fireworks for the fourth of July?

It is believed that John Adams wanted us to celebrate the 4th with fireworks, and before the Declaration of Independence was even signed, he envisioned fireworks as a part of the festivities. In a letter to Abigail Adams on July 3, 1776, he wrote that the occasion should be commemorated "with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." The first commemorative Independence Day fireworks were set off on July 4, 1777.

["Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, 3 July 1776, 'Had a Declaration...'"](#). Adams Family Papers. Massachusetts Historical Society. Retrieved June 28,

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A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State

We will continue to offer you information that is available on the Website of the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

In this issue of our eNewsletter, we would like to tell you about a Consular Information Program that is administered by the State Department's Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis management (ACS). The Program informs American citizens of conditions abroad that may affect their safety and security.

[Country specific Information](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Worldwide Cautions](#) are vital parts of this Program.

So, whether you have just arrived in Romania and would like to find out more about Romania's safety and security issues, medical care and health facilities, traffic and road conditions, or you are planning a trip to somewhere near or far, information on public conditions that may affect your safety and security while residing or traveling overseas is always available under International Travel on the <http://travel.state.gov>.

Help us help you! Remember to register your residence or international trip with the [SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM](#).

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. STAY SAFE.

Did You Know?

John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826--the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

<http://www.history.com/topics/july-4th>

Tips for traveling safe [abroad](#)



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HEADLINE NEWS

THAT YOU CAN USE



'Outrageous' or overdue?: Court strikes down part of historic voting rights law

By Bill Mears and Greg Botelho

Tuesday June 25, 2013



First Romanian to graduate from U.S. Military Academy West Point

By Newsroom June 06, 2013



Supreme Court DOMA Decision Rules Federal Same-Sex Marriage Ban Unconstitutional

By Ryan J. Reilly and Sabrina Siddiqui

Posted: 06/26/2013 10:02 am EDT Updated: 06/26/2013 2:02 pm EDT

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The U.S. Embassy
will be closed on



Wednesday, July 3, 2013 the
Embassy will close at 3:00
pm.

Friday, July 5 the Embassy
will close at 12:00 pm.

56

was the numbers of signers
to the Declaration of Inde-
pendence.



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Benjamin Franklin and John Adams reviewed Jefferson's draft. They preserved its original form, but struck passages likely to meet with controversy or skepticism, most notably passages blaming King George III for the transatlantic slave trade and those blaming the British people rather than their government. The committee presented the final draft before Congress on June 28, and Congress adopted the final text of the Declaration of Independence on July 4.

The British Government did its best to dismiss the Declaration as a trivial document issued by disgruntled colonists. British officials commissioned propagandists to highlight the declaration's flaws and rebut the colonists' complaints. The Declaration polarized British domestic opposition, as some American sympathizers thought the Declaration had gone to far, although in British-ruled Ireland it had many supporters.

The Declaration's most important diplomatic effect was to allow for recognition of the United States by friendly foreign governments. The Sultan of Morocco mentioned American ships in a consular document in 1777, but Congress had to wait until the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France for a formal recognition of U.S. independence. The Netherlands acknowledged U.S. independence in 1782. Although Spain joined the war against Great Britain in 1779, it did not recognize U.S. independence until the [1783 Treaty of Paris](#). Under the terms of the treaty, which ended the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain officially acknowledged the United States as a sovereign and independent nation.

New York: Lewis Morris, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, William Floyd

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton

Virginia: Richard Henry Lee, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Jefferson, George Wythe, Thomas Nelson, Jr.

North Carolina: William Hooper, John Penn, Joseph Hewes

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Arthur Middleton, Thomas Lynch, Jr., Thomas Heyward, Jr.

New Jersey: Abraham Clark, John Hart, Francis Hopkinson, Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon

Connecticut: Samuel Huntington, Roger Sherman, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

Maryland: Charles Carroll, Samuel Chase, Thomas Stone, William Paca

This article and other historical articles can be found at <http://history.state.gov/>

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Q: What should a U.S. citizen do if his/her passport is lost or stolen abroad?

A. *Contact American Citizen Services (ACS) for assistance. We assure you that every effort will be made to assist you quickly. If you are scheduled to leave the country, please, provide ACS with details regarding your departure schedule. You will need to present a DS-11 application for a passport/passport card, a DS-64 statement of loss (do not sign this document until you are in the presence of a consular officer), photos, and a copy of the police report filed for your lost, or stolen passport.*

EMERGENCY MESSAGES FOR U.S. CITIZENS

The department of State has issued this Worldwide Caution to update information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. To read the Worldwide Caution message on the Department of State's website, please use the following link: [Worldwide Caution Message](#).

All U.S. citizens traveling, or living abroad are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to register their presence with the U.S. Embassy in that country.

We continue to encourage all U.S. citizens to register their trips and residence abroad to facilitate our communications with them in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions about the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), please, email us at ACSBucharest@state.gov.



Smart
Traveler
Enrollment
Program

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